

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 00452 140952Z

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2340

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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USCINCEUR

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: ANNOUNCEMENTS ON PROGRESS THROUGH COOPERATION
CAMPAIGN

1. ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF JANUARY 11 ANNOUNCED THAT FIRST GROUP OF NATIONAL WORK CAMPAIGN PARTICIPANTS DEPARTED FOR SIDAMO ADMINISTRATIVE REGION JAN. 10. FIRST GROUP OF 500 PARTICIPANTS FROM ADDIS ABABA SECONDARY SCHOOLS, ALEMAYEHU AGRICULTURE COLLEGE, AMBO AND JIMMA AGRICULTURE INSTITUTES AND GONDAR PUBLIC HEALTH COLLEGE WILL BE STATIONED IN SIDAMO TOWNS OF AWASSA, WONDO, DILLA, YIRGA, CHEFFE, CHELELEKTY, HAGERE SELAM, YIRBAMUDA AND KIBRE MENGIST. PAPER CARRIED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE WITH PICTURE OF CAMPAIGNERS DEPARTING AND REPORTED THAT CHEERING CROWD WAS SINGING SPECIAL SONG "GOOD LUCK CAMPAIGNERS" WHICH EXPRESSED BEST WISHES TO PARTICIPANTS. CAMPAIGNERS WERE REPORTEDLY SINGING RESPONSIVE TUNE "I AM LEAVING FOR THE CAMPAIGN" WHICH SHOWS THEIR DETERMINATION TO ERADICATE ILLITERACY, HUNGER AND DISEASE."

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 00452 140952Z

2. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT PARTICIPANTS WILL DEPART ADDIS ABABA AT THE RATE OF 500 PER DAY, FIRST TO SIDAMO, FOLLOWED BY ARUSSI, WOLLEGA AND ILLUBABOR PROVINCES, IN THAT ORDER.

3. EYEWITNESS REPORTED THAT DEPARTING CAPAIGNERS' CONVOY LOOKED AS IF KIDS WERE GOING OFF TO WAR WITH MILITARY ESCORTS, MACHINE GUNS MOUNTED FRONT AND REAR, LOTS OF SOLDIERS IN EVIDENCE AND MOTHERS WEEPING.

4. ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF JANUARY 12 REPORTS THAT 20,000 PEOPLE IN AWASSA (SIDAMO PROVINCIAL CAPITAL) WELCOMED THE FIRST CAMPAIGNERS WHEN THEY ARRIVED THERE FRIDAY. (COMMENT: SURELY EXAGGERATED). THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF SIDAMO REPORTEDLY WELCOMED THE CAMPAIGNERS AND WAS HIMSELF PRESENTED BY THEM WITH AN EMBLEM ON WHICH THE CAMPAIGN MOTTO "THE CALL OF THE MOTHERLAND" WAS INSCRIBED. THE CAMPAIGNERS LEFT AWASSA SATURDAY FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE PLACES OF ASSIGNMENT "AMID TUMULTUOUS CHEERS FROM WELL-WISHERS."

5. FSL/POL EMPLOYEE ALLEGEDLY TOLD BY MINAG OFFICIAL THAT 202 CHINESE ARE BEING DETAILED TO COUNTRYSIDE TO WORK WITH CAMPAIGNERS. CHINESE REPORTEDLY WILL BE INVOLVED ONLY IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SUCH AS WELL-DIGGING, AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND THE LIKE.

6. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM ARRIVAL OF "NEW" CHINESE AND CONTENTS PARA 5, IF RPT IF ACCURATE, MAY WELL INVOLVE CHINESE ALREADY IN-COUNTRY.
WYMAN

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